

DRIED FRUIT

Dried fruit shipments to foreign nations will drop sharply in the near future, a University of California economist predicts.

EARLIEST DICTIONARY

The earliest American dictionary was one published by Noah Webster in 1806.

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS

Professional workers organize less rapidly than industrial workers because of fewer similarities of interest, believes a University of California industrial relations professor.

NEBRASKA

Nebraska's livestock, poultry and dairy farming interests are large and valuable.

PRINCIPAL'S RESIGNATION ACCEPTED IN FIRST RIFT IN NEW TORRANCE SCHOOLS

(Continued from page 1-A)

ually, to inform themselves of the work and progress of each of the schools in the district and considers itself to be fully informed as to the nature and success of the educational program in each of the several schools.

"With respect to the Torrance Elementary School, the principal, Albert R. Beardsley, expressed a willingness to present his resignation to the Board of Education at an informal meeting on November 19, 1947 at which time the superintendent recommended to the Board that the resignation not be considered. The Board followed this course of action after full discussion of this situation with Mr. Beardsley, the superintendent, and the assistant superintendent of schools.

"On Dec. 1 the Board received a letter addressed to the superintendent of schools from Beardsley, tendering his resignation of his own volition as principal of the Torrance Elementary School, in which he stated: 'I earnestly desire that my resignation be accepted and that it take effect immediately.'

"In view of the repeated desire of Beardsley to leave the Torrance City schools, the Board considers it wise at this time to respect his wishes in the matter and to accept his resignation as principal of the Torrance Elementary School.

"The Board and superintendent are aware of the problem which a change in administrative leadership in any school creates, and wish to assure the parents of all children in Torrance elementary school that there will be no interference or interruption with

the continued educational program for any child in this school.

"Albert N. Posner will serve as acting principal of Torrance Elementary School until a permanent appointment to the principalship can be made."

Presenting his view of the controversy, Beardsley said: "Since my resignation as principal of Torrance Elementary School has been accepted by the Board of Education of the Torrance city schools, I feel it my duty toward the cause of good education in Torrance to give the reasons for not continuing to work any longer under the administrative and personal practices of the Torrance School District.

"The first major mistake of the school administration was to underestimate this year's school budget by \$50,000.00. This severe error has deprived the teachers of texts, reading circle chairs, kindergarten equipment, playground equipment, and badly needed repairs to the buildings and grounds to make them safe for the children. Yet in spite of these limitations the teachers are expected to do excellent work without the necessary supplies and equipment. With these shortages so acute the administration terms offers of help on new equipment charity when service-minded community groups propose to help the schools.

"I do not believe that indiscriminate hiring and firing of personnel in a school system builds morale. The dismissal of Mr. Chester Crawford, of 2415 Gramercy ave, as custodian in Torrance Elementary School took place

without my being consulted as principal. His work was entirely satisfactory with me and with the teaching staff. I was asked by the superintendent of schools to dismiss other personnel without sufficient cause, in my judgment, and I refused to do so.

"Much criticism was given me by the superintendent for having a faculty organized upon the democratic plan of setting building policies by giving every teacher a voice and a vote in the process. If teachers are not allowed to practice democracy and learn how it works in a public school faculty organization, how can they be expected to teach children the practices and techniques of democracy?"

"My reason for quitting the school system is based upon the use of authority and fear to gain personal loyalty. I would rather work in a system where democratic methods of leadership are used for the purposes of enabling children to have rich educational experiences.

"(Signed) A. R. Beardsley." Referring to statements concerning dismissal of Crawford, Assistant Superintendent E. W. Ingram told members of the Board that references to the dismissal of a school custodian made during the earlier discussion were correct in so far as the man had been dismissed, but the actual reason for the dismissal was insubordination.

The Board members approved Ingram's action and stated that the present method of employment was satisfactory. No written reports are required to be submitted in such cases and Ingram told the Board that he would make oral reports for the information of Board members whenever such dismissals occur.

In the delegation present, in addition to Mrs. Plank and Beight were Mrs. Beight, Mrs. Dorothy Epperheimer, Mrs. Martha Riggie, Dr. John W. Beeman, Mrs. Evelyn Schooley, John Melville, Mrs. Otto B. Willett, Mrs. Don Hyde and Mrs. E. H. ...

The delegation members asked why Beardsley finds it necessary to resign, stating that he is doing a fine job at the Torrance Elementary School.

Board members stated that Beardsley had not been able to adjust himself to a situation which exists in the Torrance City School district for this first year. It is necessary for not only the Torrance Elementary School, but for all the schools, to get along without some of the things which principals and teachers would like to have and should have, and which the administration would like to be able to provide. The delegation was reminded that all five of the principals who were employed were fully and completely informed of the conditions and the situation as it was known would exist the first year, and had accepted their respective positions with full knowledge of the true facts.

Mrs. Beight and Mrs. Plank contended that Beardsley had been subjected to so much "pressure" by the Administration, and more particularly by the superintendent, that he had no alternative other than to resign. The president of the Board pointed out that this is an erroneous interpretation of the matter, as Beardsley had not been subjected to any more so-called "pressure" than any of the other principals, and that, as a matter of fact, Hull had made every effort to give the principals an opportunity to work out their own methods in the various schools and has been extremely reluctant to interfere with any of their programs.

At the conclusion of this statement a chorus of voices from the audience stated that the other principals are "afraid of their jobs" and that because Beardsley had the courage to voice his own opinions, this action had resulted. This was elaborated

upon by Mrs. Beight and Mrs. Plank by their statements that all the employees are afraid to voice opinions for fear of losing their jobs. Mr. Thatcher replied that his personal investigation did not reveal this to be true.

Dr. Beeman stated that he had heard so many rumors, that he had decided to attend this meeting and obtain as much information as possible about this particular case.

Mrs. Riggie suggested that the matter be tabled for the present time, whereupon Dr. Wood again pointed out that Beardsley had specifically asked that his resignation be accepted immediately.

Mrs. Beight remarked that the whole matter appears to be a petty quarrel between individuals, which was refuted by Dr. Wood, and the reason given again for the resignation. Mrs. Plank asked the Board to cite particular instances where Beardsley has been disloyal or failed to cope with matters.

Dr. Wood and other members of the Board stated that nothing would be accomplished by going into great detail in this matter and that it is better to leave details out of the record as a protection to Beardsley's reputation.

Mrs. Carr appealed to the assemblage to understand that the Board is not endeavoring to "protect" Hull, as was stated by some members of the delegation, but to protect Beardsley. She asked them to have enough confidence in their Board of Education to believe that any action which results in this case will be for the good of the entire school district and to realize that the matter has been given much thought and deliberation by the entire Board of Education.

Melville addressed the other citizens assembled telling them that the least they can do is give their Board of Education an opportunity to prove itself. He commented that obviously the Board is in possession of information which it may not wish to divulge which brings about the decision, which decision should be respected. He reminded the people that they, as voters, will have their chance to vote what they think of the Board at the polls at the next election.

Thatcher brought out the fact that, in employing some seventy or seventy-five persons to staff the Torrance City schools, it is not too remarkable that there may be one person who does not exactly fit into the picture, and that this is no reason to question the Board's judgement altogether. He stated that Beardsley had been well liked by the Board members and those who knew him, but that he had simply not been able to adjust himself to the situation and had, therefore, of his own volition, tendered his resignation.

In reply to persistent questions of why the Board of

Education is accepting Beardsley's resignation, and after the question had again been asked by Mrs. Schooley, Dr. Wood stated that "there has been lack of cooperation, lack of loyalty, there has been a definite undermining of confidence of the people in the Board and in the Administration, and out of consideration of those things, the Board feels that to have a school that is divided and working in two directions at the same time would be disastrous. We have hoped that, by saying that alone, and by assuring you that we do know what we are talking about, that this could be concluded without a public airing of details."

Beight countered with "because one man says Mr. Beardsley is no good, the Board is accepting his resignation."

Mrs. Carr asked if this is a case of one man (Beardsley) being right and everyone else being wrong.

Dr. Wood asked the people to please allow the Board to handle this matter, which it has considered most carefully before arriving at its decision, for a long time—in fact, before school opened.

Dr. Beeman said he favors trying to get together in this matter, and stated that there has to be some "give and take" in a thing of this kind, but that in any event some effort should be made to get together for the common good and purpose. He said he for one is willing to take the Board's decision if they sincerely feel that this is the best way out of a difficult situation.

Mrs. Riggie asked whether or not the Board has vested the superintendent with so much power that his recommendations and suggestions are always followed without question. Dr. Wood replied that, if she meant "is the Board a rubber-stamp," the answer is emphatically "no," which is evidenced by the fact that two long meetings each month are necessary to transact the great volume of business brought before the Board. He added that in order to preserve

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Spanning Canyon Diablo

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